

Silwood Park, Berkshire (VC 22) in the period 17-20 June 1989 by Hollier and Belshaw (1990, *Brit. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **3**, 81). I would like to express my gratitude to Colin Plant, for allowing me to publish his M25 motorway embankment records in this note.— JOHN R. DOBSON, 46 Elmwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8AH.

Tipula (Vestiplex) hortorum L. (Dip.: Tipulidae) in East Kent

On 1 May 1997 I visited Covert Wood near Canterbury (grid reference TR 182494) in order to add to my list of records for the site. Amongst the craneflies *Limonia nubeculosa* (Mg.) was exceedingly abundant and a couple of *L. nigropunctata* (Schummel) were swept but no others were seen except for what was later identified (from a male) as *Tipula hortorum*. Numerous males and females were observed flying around the ground vegetation which consists largely of bluebells, Perennial dog's mercury and Yellow archangel. A further visit on 3 May revealed several more of this fly and in one spot a female was discovered apparently ovipositing in the soil amongst the moss *Mnium hornum* Hedw. A visit on 12 May produced only a single female, discovered as she was definitely ovipositing in a patch of rather dry soil between clumps of *Mnium hornum*.

Covert Wood is situated on Head overlying the Upper Chalk. The spot where *T. hortorum* was abundant is largely dominated by Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*, with a ground flora of *Mercurialis perennis* and *Galeobdolon luteum*, the soil here appearing somewhat basic. Further along the track there are some acidic areas containing Broom *Cytisus scoparius* and several clumps of the fern *Blechnum spicant*.

Falk (1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain and Ireland*. Research and Survey in nature conservation No. 39. NCC) gave Surrey and Sussex from south-east England whilst Stubbs (1992. *Provisional atlas of the long-palped craneflies (Diptera: Tipulinae) of Britain and Ireland*. Biological Records Centre) showed that the nearest previously recorded localities for *T. hortorum* are well over 100km to the west of Covert Wood but states that it is possibly under-recorded on account of its relatively early flight period.— LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

Entomological expedition to Madeira, July 1998 – entomologists needed

Experienced entomologists are needed to assist in a two-week field trip to the Funchal Ecological park, Madeira in July 1998. The aim of the expedition is to survey the Lepidoptera in the park. The research will be conducted in association with the Parque Ecológico do Funchal, Centro de Ciência e Tecnologia da Madeira (CITMA) and the University of Madeira. Accommodation and transport will be provided. If sufficient funding can be raised, the costs of flights and subsistence will be subsidised or covered.

For further information or application to join the expedition please write to me enclosing a *curriculum vitae* or telephone me on 00-44-(0)-1273-473191.— ANDREW WAKEHAM-DAWSON, Mill Laine Farm, Offham, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3BQ.